

July 31, 2012

Ashley Gungle, Project Manager
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County of San Diego
Department of Planning and Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
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Re: Tierra del Sol Soitec Solar Project

I am the holder of Land Conservation Contract No. AP77-46, The Maupin Agricultural Preserve No. 96. We sold Joseph Brown one hundred fifty acres of this land, giving him the full disclosure of the property limitations in the escrow. In 1988 Mr. Brown did some paper work with the County to rescind the Contract. We found out about this in 1990 when I inquired as to why our property tax was going up. I never found out if Mr. Brown had forged my name on the papers since the County reinstated the Contract, refunded us the rise in taxes, and I let the matter drop. He has told me, in the past, that he was successful in taking his property out of the Contract which does not appear to be true.

Mike Armstrong from Soitec and the lobbyist that is pushing all of the projects in the Boulevard area came to our house for a visit. They wanted to purchase water from us for the project and an easement across our property to transport the power they propose to generate to the Lansing property east of us. We declined. During the discussion, Mr Armstrong said that they needed a lot of water for dust abatement during construction and to wash off the mirrors after construction. He said that dust cuts down on their efficiency. I asked how they were going to control dust when all but one road bordering the property are dirt. The border road along the south side of the property is dirt, as are the roads south of the border, the road bordering the east end of the property, and Tierra del Sol road from the tee east to my house. Also, all the roads that they want to build on the Brown property, will be dirt. His only reply was that they would be working with the Border Patrol to put something on the border road to manage the dust.

In an area that has a diminishing ground water problem, I do not understand how this is going to work without causing large problems for the surrounding properties. The output of my wells has diminished over the past decade. The well in the pasture that we once used to irrigate with at sixty gallons a minute twenty four hours a day, may now only produce fifteen gallons a minute. I came to that conclusion by measuring the time that it takes to fill the storage tank on the hill. That well is directly east of the well that they just drilled on the Brown property south of our house. The whole area is having the problem. The farm in Jacumba has pulled out of the area for the same reason. Those wells produced over one thousand gallons a minute for years. Evidently, not any more.

Another aspect that I do not see any reference to are health problems that may arise from this

project. After the Southwest Power Link was built through the middle of our property and began to transport electricity, my wife was diagnosed with polycythemia rubra vera, a bone marrow disease related to leukemia. Her hematologist said that something in our environment jarred her bone marrow and caused it to begin producing platelets by the millions, thus causing her to have TIA's which are mini strokes. While this condition is not recognized in the United States as being caused by electromagnetic fields, my research has found that it is quite prevalent around high voltage lines in Europe. With more and more problems being discovered with wind turbines, I wonder if anything has been done to look at large solar projects. My wife's oral chemo must be adjusted from time to time to keep her blood stable. We do not need any more complications.

Something else that causes me a lot of concern is why a project like this is even considered. We, that live in the Boulevard area, went through years of meetings to come up with a land use plan. It does not call for the industrialization of the area, yet that is what is being proposed. It appears that a developer, aided by the Department of Land use, can find property that is owned by absentee land owners and totally trash the back country. The rationality used by the developer is that it is green and, therefore, mandated by the government. It doesn't have to be proven to be viable, only that it is a green project that is eligible for tax subsidy. The attitude that I see from those involved is that this is government mandated green progress so we, that have to live with it, should just shut up and put up with the rape of the area.

Sincerely



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cc: Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Boulevard Planning Group